

GLOSSARY OF TERMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Access Management: Providing and managing access to developed land while preserving the flow of traffic on the surrounding road system.

Algal Blooms: are caused by warm water, plentiful plant nutrients, and shallow water depth that encourage excessive plant growth, in this case algae. Algae blooms can shut off sunlight, killing submerged plants. Eventually, the blooms rob oxygen from the water, which in turn kills fish.

Aquifer: a geologic formation, group of formations, or part of a formation that contains sufficient saturated, permeable materials to yield significant quantities of water to wells and springs. (CGS Section 22a-354h[6])

Aquifer Protection Area (APA): An APA is an area delineated by a water utility company encompassing the groundwater recharge area for an active public drinking water supply well or for well fields serving more the 1,000 people that are set in stratified drift deposits.

Arterial road: A roadway carrying large traffic volumes specifically for mobility, with limited or restricted service to local development.

Base Flood Elevation (BFE): is the height of the base flood, usually in feet, above the ground surface.

Census Tract: Census tracts are small, relatively permanent statistical subdivisions of a county. Tracts are delineated by a local committee of census data users for the purpose of presenting data. Census tract boundaries normally follow visible features, but may follow governmental unit boundaries and other non-visible features in some instances; they always nest within counties. Designed to be relatively homogeneous units with respect to population characteristics, economic status, and living conditions, census tracts average about 4,000 inhabitants.

Coastal resources: the coastal waters of the state, their natural resources, related marine and wildlife habitat and adjacent shorelands, both developed and undeveloped, that together form an integrated terrestrial and estuarine ecosystem. (CGS Section 22a-93 [7]) (A detailed list and definitions of coastal resources are included in the Town's Coastal Management Program document [1984])

Collector Road: A street whose function is equally divided between mobility and access, linking local streets to arterials.

Floodplain or Flood-prone Areas: any land susceptible to being partially or completely inundated by water from any source (Town of Darien Zoning Regulations).

Floodplain Zone A (100-year floodplains) are areas subject to flood with a 1 percent chance of being equaled or exceeded in any given year. No Base Flood Elevations or depths are shown

within this zone. Zones “AE” and “A1-A30” (where the number indicates flood elevation) are zones where the BFE is known.

Floodplain Zones B, C, and X (500-year floodplains) are areas subject to floods that have a 0.2 percent chance of being equaled or exceeded in any given year. No BFEs or depths are shown within these zones.

Floodplain Zone V (100-year coastal floodplains) are areas that have additional hazards associated with storm waves. No BFEs are shown within this zone. “VE” Zones are areas where the BFE is known.

Floodway is the channel of a river or other watercourse and the adjacent land area that must be reserved in order to discharge the base flood without cumulatively increasing the water surface elevation more than a designated height (Town of Darien Zoning Regulations).

Geographic Information System (GIS): a combination of computer software, hardware and data used to create maps and analyze and present data.

Hypoxia: a condition of low dissolved oxygen concentrations in the waters of Long Island Sound that impacts up to half of the Sound's bottom waters each summer.

Imperviousness: paved surfaces such as roads, driveways, parking lots, outdoor patios, and building footprints.

Invasive Species means non-native plant or animals that exhibit an aggressive growth habit and can out-compete and displace native species.

Local Street: A street whose primary function is to provide access to a residence, business or other abutting property.

Mean Water Line: the average height of water observed over time.

Pathogens: are disease-causing microorganisms, such as bacteria and viruses, that come from the fecal waste of humans and animals.

Point Sources: are fixed sources such as industrial facility wastewater outlets. For example, the inactive and former Town sewage treatment plant within Noroton Neck, used to discharge directly into Cove Harbor.

Public Beach: the portion of the shoreline held in public fee ownership by the state or that portion of the shoreline below the mean high tide elevation that is held in public trust by the state (CGS Section 22a-93[6]).

Shellfish Classifications:

Approved areas conform to strict criteria for the growing and harvesting of shellfish for recreational and commercial use and direct consumption.

Prohibited areas are closed for the harvesting of shellfish (except licensed aquaculture operations) at all times.

Restricted-relay means shellfish may not be directly harvested for market or consumed prior to a minimum purification period of 14 consecutive days after being relayed to Approved or Conditionally Approved "open" areas with a water temperature of 50 degrees Fahrenheit (10 degrees Celsius) or greater.

Conditionally Approved area is designated "open" for shellfishing when it conforms to management criteria for the area as well as the standards for an Approved classification when the status is designated "open".

SWRPA: means the Southwestern Regional Planning Agency, consisting of the following communities: Darien, Greenwich, New Canaan, Norwalk, Stamford, Weston, Westport, and Wilton.

Tenure: As defined by the Census Bureau, A housing unit is "owned" if the owner or co-owner lives in the unit, even if it is mortgaged or not fully paid for. A cooperative or condominium unit is "owned" only if the owner or co-owner lives in it. All other occupied units are classified as "rented," including units rented for cash rent and those occupied without payment of cash rent.

Watercourses: means rivers, streams, brooks, waterways, lakes, ponds, marshes, swamps, bogs and all other bodies of water, natural or artificial, vernal or intermittent, public or private, which are contained within, flow through or border upon this state or any portion thereof, not regulated pursuant to CGS Sections 22a-28 to 22a-35, inclusive of the General Statutes, as amended. (Darien IWW Regulations Section 2.1 [ii])

Wetlands: land, including submerged land as defined in Section 2.1 (dd) of the Town Inland Wetlands and Watercourses (IWW) Regulations, not regulated pursuant to Section 22a-28 through 22a-35, inclusive, of the CGS, which consists of any of the soil types designated as poorly drained, very poorly drained, alluvial and flood plain by the National Cooperative Soils Survey, as it may be amended from time to time, of the Soil Conservation Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). Such areas may include filled, graded, or excavated sites which possess an aquatic (saturated) soil moisture regime as defined by the USDA Cooperative Soil Survey. (Darien IWW Regulations Section 2.1 [jj])

ABBREVIATIONS

APA—Aquifer Protection Area

CGS—Connecticut General Statutes

ConnDOT--Connecticut Department of Transportation

CTDEP—Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection

EPC—Darien Environmental Protection Commission

FEMA—Federal Emergency Management Agency

GIS—Geographic Information System

IWW—Inland Wetlands and Watercourses

NAPS—Natural and Architectural Preservation Survey

NFIP—National Flood Insurance Program

NPDES—National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System

PTL—Protected Town Landmark

SLOSSS--ConnDOT's Suggested List of Surveillance Study Sites

STP--Federal Surface Transportation Program

SWRMPO—Southwestern Region Metropolitan Planning Organization

SWRPA—Southwestern Regional Planning Agency

VOC—Volatile Organic Compounds